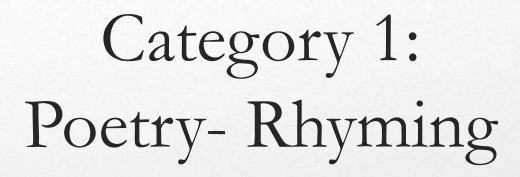


Creative Writing division- Local winners
VA New Jersey Health Care System









1st Place: Roots by Darrin Mayers

2nd Place: Meds by Paul Sasso

3rd Place: Black Gold by Lewis Cole







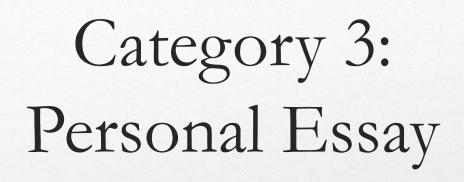
1st Place: Quest for Identity by Charles Kasbarian

2nd Place: Regrets by Darrin Mayers

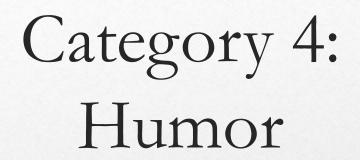
3rd Place: Inner Reasons by Darrin Mayers



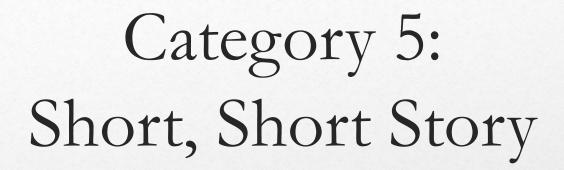




1st Place: Overqualified by Stella Okigbo



1st Place: The Pygmy Rattlesnake by Richard Baduini



1st Place: Heroine by Julian Morales

2nd Place: All Things Considered by Conor Murtagh

3rd Place: What do you Believe in? by L. Jordan James







1st Place: Where are you from? By Stella Okigbo

2nd Place: Vaccine Cashout by Stella Okigbo





Category 8: Military Experience

1st Place: The Leave Taking by Jerry Tutak

2nd Place: Lost in the Woods by Stella Okigbo

3rd Place: It Don't Mean Nothin' by Joseph De Frank









NJ Veteran Participants

- Charles Kasbarian
 - Poetry Non-Rhyming: Quest for Identity
- Conor Murtagh
 - Short, Short Story: All Things Considered
- Darrin Mayers
 - Poetry Rhyming: Roots
 - Poetry Non-Rhyming: Regrets, Inner Reasons
- Jerry Tutak
 - Poetry Non-Rhyming: Interstate Haiku
 - Military Experience: The Leave Taking

- Joseph De Frank
 - Military Experience: It Don't Mean Nothin'
- Julian Morales
 - Short, Short Story: Heroine
- L. Jordan James
 - Short, Short Story: What do you Believe in?
 - Short, Short Story: A United Life
- Lewis Cole
 - Poetry Rhyming: Black Gold
 - Poetry Non-Rhyming: The Drum Shout
 - Poetry Non-Rhyming: King Cotton









NJ Veteran Participants

- Paul Sasso
 - Poetry Rhyming: Meds
- Richard Baduini
 - Humor: The Pygmy Rattlesnake
 - Military Experience: Veteran's Day
- William Wilks
 - Military Experience: The Evolution of Brotherhood

Stella Okigbo

- Poetry Non-Rhyming: My Father's Rain
- Personal Essay: Overqualified
- Short Script: Where are you from?
- Short Script: Vaccine Cashout
- Short, Short Story: Vacant Chairs
- Military Experience: Lost in the Woods









Thank you to all our New Jersey participants!

Our 1st place winners have been sent off for judging at the National level to compete against all 50 states within their divisions.

We hold the National Veteran's Creative Arts Festival annually and are always looking forward to reaching new Veteran's for participation!

If you have any questions about the NVCAF, please contact me at melanie.snider@va.gov





